

CLR-15 (Fwd) Chaplain's Corner



My name is Paul Kim, and I am the Regimental Chaplain for CLR-15 Forward. Petty Officer 3rd Class Hybl is my Religious Program Specialist. I am honored and very excited about the opportunity to serve our Marines and Sailors during our deployment.

After long hours of flights and processing, we are finally here in Iraq. The quality of living here in the camp is so much better than what I expected. The new chow hall is only a few months old. The food is great! The living quarters are all brand new. It's hard to believe we are in a war zone. It feels more like we are in garrison. Even the chapel is only 2 months old. It is so good to see our Marines and Sailors being well taken care of.

However, we are still in a war zone. We are human beings with emotions. It is important to physically rest our bodies and acquire necessary nutrition; however, our emotional and, most importantly, spiritual life have to stay healthy as

well because we are made of body, soul (mind, thoughts, emotion), and spirit. All three parts need to be well because they are interconnected.

That's where I come in as a chaplain. With your prayers, I am here to help our Marines and Sailors foster their spiritual life and enjoy a stable emotional life through worship services, counseling, fellowship, and visitation. But, above all the Lord Almighty will watch over them all.

Also, RP3 and I will help them stay connected with their families through the program called, "United Through Reading". They will be given opportunity to come to a video recording studio inside the chapel and record themselves reading books to their children. After the recording, the DVDs will be mailed to their family members. For more information, go to www.read2kids.org

If you have any concerns, feel free to email me at Paul.Kim@cssemnf-wiraq.usmc.mil or RP3 Hybl at HyblAD@cssemnf-wiraq.usmc.mil

Thank you for your heartfelt support and faithful prayers. May the Lord bless you and any of your family members who may be serving our country with honor.

Chaplain Paul Kim
CLR-15 FWD Chaplain

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The first group of sailors and Marines from the 1st MLG to depart for Iraq on February 7, 2006 were taken to March AFB where they were processed for the trip overseas. Here they were greeted by volunteers who showered them with snacks, toilet articles, cell phone usage, and phone cards to take with them. Several hours later, they were flown to Bangor, ME for a two-hour layover and then to Frankfurt, Germany for another layover and airline crew change. Hours later, we were in Kuwait. This stop was only temporarily. Less than 12 hours later, we were in a C-130 aircraft inbound to Al Taqaddum, Iraq which was the final destination for most of us. After getting our gear, we were assigned to our quarters known as "cans." These were small, two person trailers with bunk beds, wall lockers, and a heating/cooling system. This was quite a difference from the massive, canvas tent that was used in previous deployments. Showers and heads were also converted trailers located throughout "can city."



For those old hands who have been here on previous deployments, changes were abundant. In addition to "can city", there was a new chow hall with multiple food and drink selections. This writer has yet to hear any complaints about the food. The cooking, serving, and cleaning is all done by contract workers who are very polite, friendly, and professional. Each meal is eaten here plus mid-rats from 2300-0100. T-trays and MRE's are not even mentioned here. Across from the Mainstage plywood chapel, is a tent city that is presently being bulldozed down and taken away by dump trucks. The rotting canvas, HESCOs, and sand bags are all being removed to make room for another "can city."

Lakeside has a new and beautiful chapel! Previously, worship was conducted in a tent. Our thanks to Fr. Tim Hogan, the out-going CLR-15 chaplain from Camp LeJeune who was instrumental in having the chapel built. Efforts to have this chapel named "St. Timothy's" were quickly quashed by Fr. Tim himself!

Morale is sky high! Everyone is friendly and professional. Some of the personnel here have also recorded United Through Reading sessions for their families. Encourage your loved one to take advantage of this wonderful event. These recordings will be treasured as you and your kids grow older!

Weather has been cold in the mornings and cool in the afternoons. It is only now getting to be a bit warm during the day. More of that will certainly come in the future.

This is all for now!

God Bless,

Fr. Spencer
1st MLG Roman Catholic Chaplain